CLAIMS:

1.   A system for automated remote data collection using data retrieved from an apparatus, the system comprising:

> a microprocessing unit;
>
> a first interface between the apparatus and the microprocessing unit;
>
> a communication link; and
>
> a second interface between the microprocessing unit and the communication link;
>
> wherein the microprocessing unit contains an application development framework for developing applications that utilize generic implementation information provided by the application development framework.

2.   The system of claim 1 and further comprising:

> an application created by the application development framework; and
>
> an operating system that administers the application through the application development framework.

3.   The system of claim 1 wherein the communication link is an Internet link.

4.   The system of claim 3 wherein a user manually indicates to send retrieved data as electronic mail.

5.   The system of claim 3 wherein retrieved data is transmitted as electronic mail.

6.   The system of claim 3 wherein retrieved data is transmitted as electronic mail to a central database.

7. The system of claim 6 wherein the retrieved data is accessed with a computer having a web browser.

8. The system of claim 1 wherein the microprocessing unit, the first interface, the communication link, and the second interface are embedded in a dedicated-function appliance.

9. The system of claim 1 wherein the microprocessing unit, the first interface, the communication link, and the second interface are embedded within the apparatus.

10. The system of claim 1 wherein the application development framework implements interaction across the first interface and the second interface.

11. The system of claim 2 wherein the application provides information regarding the apparatus type, data collection, and data delivery that is specific to a user.

12. The system of claim 1 wherein the system supports a plurality of apparatuses.

13. The system of claim 2 wherein the application development framework allows the application to be created and administered regardless of the operating system that is used.

14. The system of claim 1 wherein the application development framework allows the application to be created and administered regardless of the communication link that is used.

15. The system of claim 1 wherein the apparatus is configured remotely.

16. A system for automated collection and delivery of patient data, the system comprising:

a medical device; and

an appliance having a microprocessing unit that wakes at scheduled times, collects data from the medical device, and sends the data as electronic mail.

17. The system of claim 16 and further comprising:

a network server to transmit the electronic mail to a location where the data contained in the electronic mail can be viewed.

18. The system of claim 16 and further comprising:

a database to store the data transmitted by a network server; and

a computer with a web browser to access the data.

19. The system of claim 16 and further comprising:

a computer in communication with a network server to receive the electronic mail.

20. The system of claim 16 wherein the microprocessing unit further comprises:

an operating system;

an Internet link;

an application development framework to design applications specific to the medical device and a patient; and

an application designed with the application development framework.

20.   The system of claim 16 wherein the medical device is configured remotely through a modem.